

### Frequently Asked Questions

If you have questions about our office or the services provided feel free to email this office at [kathy\\_miller@ncsu.edu](mailto:kathy_miller@ncsu.edu), call this office at 336-372-5597, or drop by our office at 90 South Main St., Sparta NC.

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### **What types of services are offered by the Alleghany County Center of North Carolina Cooperative Extension?**

There are currently three Alleghany County based Extension agents and technicians. They are David Isner, Jacquelyne Gordon and Amy Lucas. These agents and technicians provide assistance and leadership in the areas of lawn, garden and home and plant pests; burley tobacco; pesticide certification and re-certification; rural safety; family development; human environment; health and safety; family resource management; food safety and nutrition; school enrichment programs; after school programming; educational opportunities for youth; Christmas tree production; forestry; commercial horticulture, including nursery and vegetable crops; and alternative agricultural enterprises. There are also five other agents that provide services to the residents of Alleghany County: Craig Adkins, Area Specialized Agent, Commercial Horticulture, is based in Caldwell County and provides educational opportunities and information in the commercial horticulture fields of nursery crops and greenhouse production. Stanley Holloway, Agricultural Extension Agent, is based in Yancey County and is the Burley Tobacco coordinator for local agent support and assistance. Elizabeth Moretz, Area Specialized Agent, Dairy, is based in Yadkin County and implements educational programs for the Northwest Region in dairy production and management and Charles Young, Agricultural Extension Agent, is based in Ashe County and provides leadership on livestock educational programs in both Alleghany and Ashe Counties.

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### **What is Family & Consumer Science?**

Family & Consumer Science is strengthening and sustaining families. Jacquelyne Gordon is the Alleghany County FCS Extension Agent. Programs are delivered to individuals and families to improve the quality of their lives. Educational information you can trust to help your family succeed, is provided in the areas of family development, human environment, health and safety, family resource management, food safety and nutrition.

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### **What is 4-H?**

4-H is a fun program where you get to "Learn by Doing." Everyone is invited to join! 4-H has special activities for you! 4-H offers something to match everyone's interests. Best of all, membership is FREE! County 4-H programs include various educational opportunities for youth and promote life skill development through learning by doing experiences. Amy Lucas is the Alleghany County 4-H agent.

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### **What is AIO?**

AIO stands for Alternative Income Opportunities Program. The primary mission is to help sustain the family farm through identification, development and marketing of alternative agricultural enterprises.

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### **What is BMP?**

BMP stands for Best Management Practices. In Alleghany County, Bryan Davis, is the Christmas tree BMP technician. The main goal is to implement on-farm demonstrations relating to best management practices.

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### **What is the Blue Ridge Cancer Coalition?**

The BRCC is a five county regional cancer control network of community based coalitions and cancer action teams. Our local coalition, Alleghany County Cancer Education & Prevention Team [ACCEPT], provides cancer prevention and early detection education, resources and support to cancer survivors and the community. For more information on the Blue Ridge Cancer Coalition visit [www.brccnc.org](http://www.brccnc.org) . For more information on ACCEPT or our local cancer support group, Rainbow of Hope, contact Jacquelyne Gordon at 336.372.5597.

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### **What is Choose & Cut?**

Choose and Cut Day is always the first Saturday in December. It provides local growers an opportunity to market fresh Christmas trees from their farms. Families make holiday memories by going to participating tree fields and selecting the tree of their choice. For more information contact David Isner at 336.372.5597.

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### **Is there a list of Christmas tree growers available?**

Yes. We have a buyer's guide listing members of the Alleghany County Christmas Tree Association as well as Choose & Cut farm brochures. To get your copy, please call or come by Cooperative Extension.

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### **What is ECA?**

The mission of the North Carolina Extension & Community Association, Inc. is to strengthen families through: leadership development, volunteer work, educational support, and

research-based education from North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University. ECA members have a wide variety of educational opportunities, which include, family issues, environmental issues, global issues, special projects, family community leadership, and certified volunteer units. As an ECA member you will meet with other individuals for facts, fellowship and fun and have an opportunity to go places and do things – conference tours, workshops, conventions and other state events for club members.

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### **Are there any ECA clubs in Alleghany County?**

Yes. We currently have four different clubs. These clubs meet on a monthly basis. There is an annual membership due of \$10.00 to become a member. The Career Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. For information about this club contact Susan Worrell at 657-3251. The Cherry Lane club meets on the second Thursday of each month at 11:00 a.m. For information about this club contact Eva Rice at 372-2990. The Laurel Springs Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. For information about this club contact Marie Pruitt at 372-8966. The Sparta Club meets on the third Thursday of each month at 3:30 p.m. For information about this club contact Georgia Cox at 372-4031.

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### **Why should I take a soil sample?**

To determine fertilizer needs that are economical and environmentally sound.

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### **How do I take a soil sample?**

Sampling methods vary from homeowners to various agricultural product producers. For further information on taking soil samples please call or come by the Cooperative Extension office.

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